

Dean of the School of Education and Human Services David Martin works with teachers at the Special Thinking Skills Institute held on campus recently.

Teachers learn about thinking skills

"A student's success in learning depends a lot on the teacher being a good asker of questions, not just an answerer of questions."

This theory, expressed by Dr. David Martin, dean of Gallaudet's School of Education and Human Services, was a key element to a "Special Thinking Skills Institute," an SEHS-sponsored program held here from June 26 to July 1.

Attended by 22 teachers from the United States and Costa Rica, the institute contained activities focusing on a full range of thinking skills, such as comparisons, logic, analyzations, sequencing, organizing, and metacognition (thinking about thinking). Although it could have been useful to teachers of any student population—because teachers are often frustrated by their students' inability to reason well—this seminar was specifically held for teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students.

"For everyone, underlying thinking skills exist, but they don't always have an active awareness of what they are, or how to apply them," Martin said. "There are methods for teaching people how to move into higher levels of thinking, but because teachers didn't have that training during their own education, very specified training is required."

Why are exercises that help improve deaf or hard of hearing students' thinking skills particularly important?

"The deaf learner has a special disadvantage sometimes when there has not been a chance for mediation—an activity where one person helps another to learn something by leading or suggesting—especially from parents and other adults," Martin said.

During the week, the teachers found themselves challenged by a battery of activities that included puzzles, videotapes, discussions, and independent work designed to improve their thinking skills and, in turn, to help their students' thinking abilities.

A "Level One" thinking skills institute was held at Gallaudet last year and again this year in addition to "Level Two." A third and final level of the course is planned for next year, as well as the other two courses.

Gallaudet has been using the seminars, essentially for University and Pre-College faculty to develop thinking skills, since 1982, Martin said. Participants from other schools did not become involved in it on a large scale until last year.

"We've tested the results with deaf populations and we know that it has definite payoffs," Martin said. "There have been very significant changes in students' study habits, academic achievement, and reasoning skills."

Therapist discusses family crises in Family Life lecture

"All families have crisis points, times when the family is challenged to behave differently from the way it is used to. And that's the time when families sometimes need help."

That's what Rudy Gawlik, a licensed social worker and family therapist, told his audience in Ely Center on July 11.

Gawlik, who works with the Institute on Deafness, Family Service Foundation Inc. in Lanham, Md., and has a private practice in College Park, Md., spoke on the topic of "When Families Need Help" as part of the Family Life Lecture Series sponsored by the

EPOC students work with NASA

For a university student pursuing a degree in a high-tech field, what could be better training, or a more impressive resume booster, than an internship at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center?

Five Gallaudet students working through the University's Experiential Programs Off Campus were fortunate enough to be included in a 10-week work/learn program this summer at the Greenbelt, Md., facility, thanks to a \$36,000 grant awarded to EPOC by the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at NASA headquarters and Goddard.

The Gallaudet students—juniors and seniors who are computer science or math majors—and two other students from the University of the District of Columbia and Bowie State College in Bowie, Md., began working alongside NASA professionals on June 17. They are paid for their work and also attend Goddard-sponsored classes as well as weekly educational seminars taught by

Gallaudet physics professor Dave Snyder, which earn them three college credits.

"The students are working in exciting programs which are real projects that NASA is doing," said Anne Nissen, EPOC director.

Elisa Maroney, EPOC's coordinator for the summer project, said that the students are assigned "mentors," or supervisors, who work directly with them. "The mentors are taking sign language classes taught by Maroney to improve their communication with the students," said Nissen. "We did a deaf awareness training session with the mentors in the first week of the program, and they were very enthusiastic about working with the students."

One mentor, however, did not need training in deaf awareness. Vilas Johnson, a deaf Gallaudet alumnus who has worked at Goddard since 1964, is working with Gallaudet junior John Bor-

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Gallaudet EPOC students (foreground, from left) Joseph Gurganus, Eric Tomas, Sheryl Simpson, and John Borkowski attend a FORTRAN computer program class offered by NASA.

National Academy in the College for Continuing Education.

Four kinds of crises often impel families to seek help, said Gawlik. One is the "bolt from the blue," in which a death, accident, or illness occurs, and the family must react immediately.

Developmental crises follow the normal growth of a family, he said—marriage, having a baby, when the first child goes to school or leaves home, or taking care of old parents. "These are all normal crises of life," said Gawlik.

But today, other crises occur in almost every family, including divorce,

remarriage, alcohol or drug abuse, or teenage pregnancy. "These experiences have become so frequent that we almost see them as normal today," he said.

Structural crises occur in families that have an alcoholic member or a history of long-standing violence.

Finally, caretaker crises, which Gawlik often finds in his work with families who have a deaf member, occur when one family member is more dependent than others. "Often families become organized around a deaf or

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NASA internships benefit students

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kowski in the flight center's Flight Dynamics Analysis branch.

Other students in the program are Colette Barnes, who is working in Graphic and Publication Services; Joseph Gurganus, working in the Data Management Systems facility, and Sheryl Simpson and Eric Tomas, working in the Computational Methods and Analysis facility.

Last summer EPOC placed five students at Goddard, and the result was so positive that Chris Rodriguez, equal opportunities specialist for NASA, suggested that EPOC apply for a grant that would include Gallaudet with colleges and universities in the Washington-Baltimore area that historically recruited minority groups.

In choosing the students for the program, Rodriguez looked for students with at least a 3.0 grade point average who were pursuing careers in the science, engineering, computer, or mathematics fields.

"I have seen these students working extremely hard in achieving their goals, and I see them landing some type of job in the aerospace industry," he said.

Three Gallaudet students interviewed about their work at Goddard were very positive about the experience.

"Compared with other places I've worked, NASA is great for hands-on experience," said Borkowski, who is

working to help develop a computer program relating to NASA's Gamma Ray Observatory satellite that is orbiting the earth. "NASA gave me a position where I could do work directly related to my major. Other places have only given me clerical work."

Gurganus, who is writing computer programs for NASA's climate data system, said, "Working here is hard and a challenge, and it's good experience."

Tomas is converting a non-standard FORTRAN computer program to a standard program that can be run on all of NASA's computers. "Getting an internship like this before graduation gives me a better chance of getting a job after graduation," he said.

According to Rodriguez, his office is pushing not only to continue having grant money provided to EPOC to carry on the summer program at Goddard, but to make it a national model for employing people with disabilities at NASA's nine bases in the United States.

Among Ourselves

Dr. Njeri Nuru, dean of the School of Communication, was one of 85 higher education administrators from the United States and Canada accepted to Harvard University's summer 1988 Management Development Program held June 26-July 8. The two-week program involved a competitive admissions process and covered an intensive curriculum of management, leadership, and future issues in higher education.

Dr. William Moses, chairman and associate professor of the Theatre Arts Department, recently received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree from his alma mater, St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa.

Dr. Ken Epstein, acting dean, and Eleanor Hillegeist, instructor, of the School of Preparatory Studies, attended the 9th National Educational Computing Conference in Dallas, Tex., June 14-18. Epstein presented a paper entitled "Making Local Area Networks Instructional Networks."

Dr. Orin Cornett, professor emeritus at Gallaudet, was recently awarded the Nitchie Award in Human Communications at the 78th Annual Meeting of the New York League for the Hard of Hearing.

Announcements

The Therapeutic Recreation Certificate Program, a grant-funded paraprofessional training program in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, will graduate its first student, Mary Thomas, on July 19 at 1 p.m. in the Field House. For more information about the program, call Sharon Malley, project coordinator, at x7514 or Missie DeShong, secretary, at x5510.

Open season for the Thrift Savings Plan, part of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), began May 15 and will continue through July 31. Employees who are under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) may also join the Thrift Savings Plan. For more information, call Kayt Lewis at x5111.



Staff assistant Sarah Ingle supervises a cooking session for children in one of Gallaudet's Family Learning Vacations, which continue through Aug. 6.

Speech to Text conference set

Registration is now under way for a four-day conference on technology and communication access for deaf and hard of hearing people. The conference,

sponsored by the Technology Assessment Program in the Gallaudet Research Institute, is scheduled for Sept. 27-30 on campus.

"Speech to Text: Today and Tomorrow" will focus on message relay service, real-time captioning, and computer recognition of speech. In addition to presentations and panel discussions, the conference will feature demonstrations of relay service, real-time captioning, and speech recognition equipment.

The conference is open to all interested people, and Gallaudet employees can attend the entire conference for \$40. This fee covers registration, conference papers, coffee breaks, and a reception, but does not include lunch. Employees who want lunch must pay a \$75 conference fee for all four days or \$35 for one day's participation.

Brochures containing information about the conference and registration forms are being sent to all Gallaudet employees. For more information, call Bobbie Virvan at x5257.

Gawlik focuses on family crises

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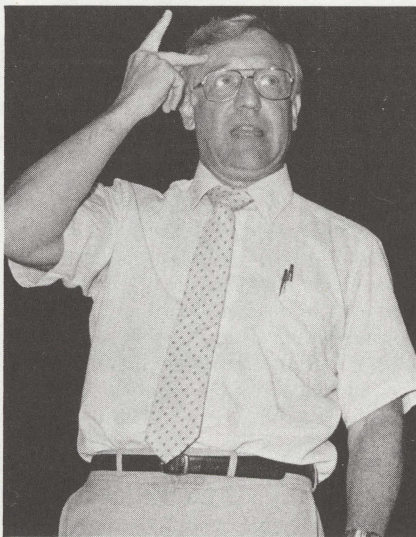
disabled member, because that person needs more attention," he said. This situation can also occur with elderly parents.

When families face a crisis, it is often easier for the therapist to help, said Gawlik. "The boundaries of the family become more flexible, and people are willing to let the therapist in. Also, the rules of the family are easier to change during a crisis."

The crisis point does ask the family to behave differently, and sometimes that is difficult for families to accept, said Gawlik. This lack of acceptance can cause symptoms of dysfunction, such as breaking rules, fighting, and alcohol abuse.

How can a family therapist help? The family therapist has a point of view that says human behavior is caused by many different factors, said Gawlik. The therapist expresses a willingness to help, defines with the family what problems exist, makes recommendations about what to do first, and negotiates with the family about new behaviors.

"Families can drive each other healthy," Gawlik said. "I try to help the family identify its strengths. My goal is to redirect the forces in the family, for improvement, for change."



Rudy Gawlik

Classified Ads

WANTED: Nonsmoking female roommate or two to share apt. in Georgetown, util. inc. w/rent, 5-min. walk to Metro, avail. Sept 1. Call 544-3232 (TDD) after 7:30 p.m.

FOR SALE: '75 Sharp microwave oven, \$25; coffee table w/2 end tables, \$25; brown round dining table w/4 chairs, \$20; oak dining table w/4 chairs, \$150. Call Laura H. at x5115 or 780-7464 (TDD) eves.

FOR RENT: Bay-side townhouse in Ocean City, Md., on lagoon off 94th St., 5-min. walk to ocean, 2-BR, furn., no pets or children, avail. until August by the week or weekend. Call x5645, x4645, or 345-4206 (TDD) eves.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD)

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP YEAR

AUDIOLOGY: MSSD

SCIENCE TEACHER: MSSD

RESEARCH SCIENTIST: Center for Studies in Education and Human Development

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR PROGRAMS—CAREER DEVELOPMENT, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM, HOME ECONOMICS, DRAMA, AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES: MSSD



Law Center Director Sy Dubow offers best wishes to staff attorney Sheila Mentowski at a recent reception. Mentowski will leave July 29 to become legal director of the Northern California Center on Deafness in Sacramento.



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